

The revolution in Haiti has given the negro people of that island more publicity than it has had in some time, for it has enjoyed comparative peace and quiet and freedom from internal dissensions during some of the years of the presidency of General Nord Alexis. That aged ruler had held his own against many less successful attempts to overturn his authority, but the present revolution was too much for his strength and political sagacity, and he decided to leave the island while he could.

Haiti is an island of very respectable size, the greatest length being about 400 miles from east to west, the greatest breadth about 100 miles and the area something less than 30,000 square miles. In an island of this size there is abundant space for diversity of scenery, particularly as the island is traversed by three mountain chains, and when this fact is borne in mind no surprise can be felt at the statements of travelers that Haiti contains some of the most magnificent landscapes to be found anywhere in the Antilles.

Haiti was originally a Spanish possession and is supposed to have had a native population of over 3,000,000. The Indians were all exterminated by the Spaniards, and the island was abandoned, then seized by the buccaners and subsequently ceded to France, the Spaniards retaining only a nominal control of the western portion. The rebellion led by Toussaint L'Ouverture against French authority led to independence, which was finally acknowledged by the French government. Twice during its somewhat variegated history since Haiti has been an empire—once under Henri Christophe, who had himself crowned emperor under the title of Henri I.; the second time under Souleouque, who took the title of Faustin I., in 1852. Each emperor created a numerous peerage, and there are still living in Haiti descendants of the Duke of Marmalade and Prince of Lemonade, titles which were created by Henri I., who bestowed them on members of his court and found the names in those of country villages in the interior.

The present population of the republic is about 1,500,000.

The Haitians are a tall and straight limbed race. The habit of carrying everything on their heads has given them an erect and graceful carriage that is pleasing to the eye. The women wear dresses of blue cotton that



JACQUES NICOLAS LEGER.

soon fade into soft tints in excellent harmony with the landscape. The costume of the men consists of cotton trousers, once blue, a shirt that was presumably once white, a straw hat and a coco macaque. The last is a cane jointed club like a bamboo, but solid and unbreakable. Any other article of his costume may be and often is dispensed with, but the coco macaque never. It is the badge of the official, the weapon of the policeman and the inseparable companion of the islander everywhere.

The presidential palace at Port au Prince is a large two story white building standing alone in a great plaza twice the size of Union square, New York. Black soldiers in uniform stand at the gates and scrutinize carefully all who go in or pass out.

The Haitian minister to the United States, Jacques Nicolas Leger, is one of the most interesting figures in the diplomatic corps at Washington. He is a fine looking man, a little under fifty years old, with an intelligent and refined face and most cultivated manners. His complexion is of a light chocolate, his figure tastefully dressed, and his whole bearing is that of a gentleman of education, accustomed to refined society and thoroughly conversant with the elegancies of life. In his native language, French, he is a fluent speaker and a graceful writer. M. Leger is a descendant of the negroes who fought in the famous insurrection which gave Haiti her freedom at the beginning of the century, his ancestor, Colonel Leger, being in the patriot army. His father was a senator in the congress, and the family is one of prominence and influence. He was educated abroad, mostly in Paris, at which post he was a member of the legation, returning later to his native land and establishing himself in the practice of law in Port au Prince, the capital. Here he rapidly rose in his profession and became distinguished as the head of the bar, being elected chief of the barristers in that city.

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Why the Kettle Sings.

Do you know why a kettle "sings" when the water is boiling?

It's like this. When the water begins to get hot little bubbles form at the bottom of the kettle and rise toward the top until they burst.

At first they burst only a little way from the bottom, but as the water gets hotter and hotter they rise higher and higher.

At last, when the water is boiling, they burst right on the surface—hundreds of them one right after another—and it is the noise of their continuous bursting which makes the sound we call "singing."

The First Chickens.

It is generally understood that the ancestry of the chicken tribe may be traced to the jungle fowl of India. All of the various varieties of our domestic fowls have been produced, it is claimed by the authorities on the subject, from the wild fowl of India.

Soft Water.

Though the boiling of hard water will in a measure free it from the mineral properties in it and render it more soft, the process is further aided by the addition of an alkali. Salt of tartar has been recommended for this purpose.

He Wrote It.

"James," said the teacher to a bright pupil, "you may write a sentence containing the word 'contents'."

Whereupon James stepped up to the blackboard and wrote as follows: "The contents of a cow is milk."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Time in Turkey.

By the Turkish method of measuring time it is 12 o'clock at sunset. As that varies daily, it is a difficult matter for two men to keep an appointment on time except at the vernal or the autumnal equinox.

Tales of Cities.

Sunderland, Vt., cast a tie vote in the last election. Three votes it gave to Bryan and three to Taft.

The city of New Britain, Conn., is making a new departure in naming a series of its streets after its ex-mayors.

New York city has more asylums, homes, hospitals and organizations for the relief of human suffering than any other city in the world.

The town of Cummington, Mass., is one of the most secluded hamlets in the state. Without a postoffice, its 734 inhabitants are thirteen miles from the nearest railroad and nineteen from another.

Woes of the Amateur.

A young man is apt to be mortified and mourn his luck when he tries to show a card trick and finds he's stuck.
—Houston Post.

Recent Inventions.

A new type of torpedo with which the navy is experimenting bores its way into the hull of a ship before exploding.

A roasting pan which automatically "bastes" meat while cooking by means of a percolator, which collects the juices and sprays them over the meat, has been patented.

A recently patented roller skate carries a fifth wheel under the toe, slightly raised above the ground and revolving transversely, to enable the skater to execute fancy figures and to stop suddenly when necessary.

Appearances Deceitful.

"Looks like rather poor soil in this part of the country," said the stranger. "Well, it ain't," replied the native. "A man over on the adjoining farm plowed up a tin can with \$50 in it one day last week."—Chicago News.

Preparing For an Introduction. "Since Jane Blossom's father got all that money she wants to marry a duke."

"What makes you think so?" "Her maid told our Annette that Jane practiced two hours the other night trying to say 'dewk' instead of 'dook'."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mean Trick.

He sent her an autumn leaf of red. "This leaf is like your cheeks," he said. And he never knew why she passed him by. With upturned chin and a frosty eye. But the truth of it was some rival fellow Changed the red to a leaf of yellow.
—Chicago News.

He Traveled Light.

"That hall room boarder moved to-day." "I didn't see any trunk go out." "There was none. I guess he placed his effects in an envelope and mailed 'em to the new address."—Kansas City Journal.